

WEEKLY UPDATE: 10/17/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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SOUTHERN FLOUNDER LAWSUIT:

The North Carolina Fisheries Association, Carteret County Fisherman's Association, and the Counties of Hyde, Carteret and Dare filed a lawsuit against the state regarding the Supplement of the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopted in November 2015.

At a hearing in the Superior Courtroom at the Carteret County Courthouse in Beaufort on September 28th, Judge John Nobles issued a Temporary Restraining Order on our behalf. The following week, on Thursday, October 6th, Judge John Jolly issued an Injunction on our behalf after 2 hours of testimony from our attorneys and the state's attorney. Jess Hawkins, who retired from the Division of Marine Fisheries, testified for our side.

As a result, there will be no closure for southern flounder that was scheduled to begin on October 16th for commercial AND recreational fishermen for this season. Also set aside was the proposed quota for southern flounder caught in a pound net, as well as daily reporting for those catches.

The minimum size of 15 inches remains in effect, as does the escape panels for pound nets and the 6 inch minimum mesh for gillnets.

Although this is good news, the case is NOT over. The injunction stays in place until the hearing, probably next year sometime. In the meantime, we owe our attorneys money and need to have more for continued work on the case. If you were just sitting back waiting to see what happened, you need to quit waiting! We really do need your help!

Whether you are a commercial fisherman, dealer, or recreational fisherman, if you are pleased that we took this legal action, you need to donate!

Checks can be made payable to:

NCFA Southern Flounder Fund
2807 Neuse Blvd.; Suite 11
New Bern, NC 28562

WANCHESE HARBOR DREDGING HAS BEGUN!

After a week of many phone calls and emails, the dredging of Wanchese Harbor started today! Many thanks to the Governor's office in Raleigh and the DC office, staffs at Senator Burr's office, Senator Tillis's office, and

Congressman Walter Jones' office for working on this. And of course, to the Corps of Engineers that got the permits and is now doing the work!

There were several vessels that could not get out of Wanchese to fish due to problems caused by Hurricane Matthew. The actual problem was not near as large as the bureaucratic red tape to get approval. I was about ready to put the guvment on the list to get a bunch of coal ash in their stockings this Christmas!

Again, thanks to all who worked on this and put up my rants. I'm old, I'm German and I work for the private sector. If it's not "Git 'er done", we just don't understand. ☺

Jerry

NCFA BOARD WELCOMES ROSS BUTLER OF WANCHESE FISH CO:

The North Carolina Fisheries Association's Board of Directors will met at the Civic Center in Washington, NC on Monday, October 17th. Originally scheduled for the 11th, it was postponed due to the storm.

The Board accepted, with regrets, the resignation of Joey Daniels. Joey served for many years on the Board, including a stint as Chairman. His brother, Kenny, also served as Chairman quite a few years ago. Joey retired from Wanchese Fish Co. the first of September, and then submitted his resignation as an NCFA Board member.

Ross Butler, CEO of Cooke Seafood USA Inc. and Wanchese Fish Co., was approved unanimously to fill the vacancy left by Joey's resignation. Ross is a graduate of both the Marine Institute and Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada, and has more than 30 years' experience in the seafood industry. He lives in Suffolk, VA with his family.

The Daniels family sold Wanchese Fish Company in June 2015.

MFC NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTS 4 NAMES:

The Committee met on Thursday, October 13th and voted to recommend to the full Marine Fisheries Commission, the following names for the Mid Atlantic Council Obligatory seat, currently held by Dewey Hemilright. The MFC will vote on the issue at their November meeting, and their recommendations will be sent to the Governor for his consideration in the spring. The final decision is made by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce upon nomination by the Governor. The Secretary typically makes the decision in June.

The names are: Dewey Hemilright, Chris Hickman, Jeff Oden and Brent Fulcher.

Oct 23 – 27; ASMFC Annual Meeting; Bar Harbor, Maine

Nov 7; NCFA Board of Directors; Noon; Civic Center; Washington, NC

Nov 16 – 18; Marine Fisheries Commission; Hilton; Kitty Hawk NC